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SUBJECT: CZECH RESPONSE: FAO BUDGET - DEMARCHE FOR ZERO
NOMINAL GROWTH

REF: SECSTATE 96467

11. (SBU) We delivered reftel demarche to officials from the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Foreign Affairs on September 17. The AgMin Officer responsible for relations with the FAO Katerina Tomasova replied September 22 that the GoCR was "disconcerted" by the new FAO budget proposal at a time when savings are essential for all. The GoCR, however, is inclined to support a zero real growth budget, and was taking this position during discussions with other EU members. The GoCR also found unacceptable the proposal to fund 50 percent of the reform process using voluntary contributions. Tomasova added that the EU Member States had not finalized a joint position at their meeting on September 121. The majority, however, appear to support adoption of a maintenance budget (i.e. zero real growth).
Thompson-Jones